

**From:** [Gray, David](#)  
**To:** [Opalski, Dan](#); [Peterson, Mary](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Coordination Follow-up: NASA Houston DC-8 flight  
**Date:** Saturday, September 9, 2017 11:41:24 AM

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## No action needed – For Your Situational Awareness (FYSA)

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**From:** Zurbuchen, Thomas H. (HQ-DA000) [mailto:thomas.h.zurbuchen@nasa.gov]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 09, 2017 10:57 AM  
**To:** Gray, David ; Kelly, Albert ; Richard Hyde ; Michael Honeycutt ; Rauscher, Jon ; Crossland, Ronnie  
**Cc:** Freilich, Michael H. (HQ-DK000) ; Friedl, Lawrence A. (HQ-DK000)  
**Subject:** Re: Coordination Follow-up: NASA Houston DC-8 flight

Dear Dr. David Grey, and team – I have asked our NASA team to coordinate with you directly. However, Dr. Mike Freilich (Director, Earth Science) is traveling internationally. I also cc-ed Lawrence Friedl, who runs applied programs. Our NASA team will be sure to connect with you directly before any final decision on planning and execution of this mission is made.

Enjoy the weekend.

Best,  
Thomas

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**From:** "Gray, David" <[gray.david@epa.gov](mailto:gray.david@epa.gov)>  
**Date:** Saturday, September 9, 2017 at 11:38 AM  
**To:** "Zurbuchen, Thomas H. (HQ-DA000)" <[thomas.h.zurbuchen@nasa.gov](mailto:thomas.h.zurbuchen@nasa.gov)>, "Kelly, Albert" <[kelly.albert@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.albert@epa.gov)>, Richard Hyde <[richard.hyde@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:richard.hyde@tceq.texas.gov)>, Michael Honeycutt <[Michael.honeycutt@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Michael.honeycutt@tceq.texas.gov)>, "Rauscher, Jon" <[Rauscher.Jon@epa.gov](mailto:Rauscher.Jon@epa.gov)>, "Crossland, Ronnie" <[Crossland.Ronnie@epa.gov](mailto:Crossland.Ronnie@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Coordination Follow-up: NASA Houston DC-8 flight

Dr Thomas Zurbuchen,

Based on the email thread attached, I am connecting us with TCEQ Executive Director Richard Hyde and Dr. Michael Honeycutt regarding your proposed mission to send the NASA DC-8 to spend several hours in southern Texas sampling atmospheric trace gases and aerosols - these include a full suite of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) and several air toxics. I have also included our Toxicologist Jon Rausher. We have a lot of monitoring and data being released by external sources including non-government organizations and the media which is leading to conflicting information.

The state has an air monitoring network in the area so we will need to ensure your efforts won't conflict with the ongoing work in the area. We also have our TAGA bus conducting air monitoring at ground level. EPA is also flying our own air monitoring surveillance aircraft ASPECT in the area so it may make more sense to direct your asset (as Sam suggested) to other facilities that we have not been able to reach yet.

Without fully understanding NASA capabilities – it is difficult to be certain to understand how best to deploy your asset. I am hesitant to have it collect additional information that overlaps our existing efforts until we know more.

We certainly appreciate your offer. Let's see what makes sense to this group. I am happy to setup a conference call if our teams can benefit from further discussion.

David Gray